

WORK FOR 96.

J. D. MCFADEN.

That was a new year for Noah when he stood at the altar on the salvation mount after the flood. That was a new year for Moses when he stood on the salvation side of the sea after crossing the God-made path. 1896 is just ahead of us. May it be rainbow girded with glory and filled with songs of praise sent up by the Brethren church because of her successful work.

As 1895 sinks from view let all criticisms wrongly made, all ill-feelings provoked by opposition, all selfishness used by satan, and all things flesh rooted and soul hurting disappear forever. As 95 will be a monument for all good, let it be a grave for all that is bad.

As 96 is coming let us meet it with good resolutions and develop them during its months, and weeks, and days. There is room for such development, for there are so many channels of usefulness, if one is not congenial to our feelings another will be helpful.

Push the paper, scatter literature, help the King's Children, assist the women's work, remember the Sunday-school, work for missions, but back of all, first, last and all the time keep Christ in view. The "first and last," must be "all, and in all" if there would be true and lasting success.

Long creeds, stately buildings, strong bodies, and human plans will fade and crumble, but "Jesus shall reign," and those faithful to him shall live with him forever.

Farewell 95. Like a stately ship you have carried us over bounding billows, and through rough storms, but temptations, burdens, disappointments and bereavements are behind us. New ties have been formed and old ones broken. Hopes have been blasted on one hand and brightened on the other. New homes have been made and old ones have vacant chairs. All these things are behind us and do not move us. The voyage has been successful, and now we transfer to another year.

We do not know the future except by past experience linked with scripture promises and warnings. Waves may roll high, sometimes we may be in the trough of the sea, sometimes on the crest of the wave, it matters not, he who holds the water in his hand can move that hand and save a wreck. Disease and trouble, with a coffin between them may enter our homes, it matters not, he who touched the young man's bier at Nain can unite us with our loved ones.

Working with a single aim, though the

method may vary, never losing sight of Jesus though we look after his sheep, and through the year we will go, and having finished our work, and kept the faith, we will enter a new year, the year of victory, and be forever with the Lord. As we hail 96, we say, "Amen, so let it be."

Carleton, Nebr.

NUMBER ONE.

J. S. C. SPICKERMAN.

"The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." I Cor. 3 : 19. And the wisdom of God seems foolishness to the world. When the worldling hears of gain by self-sacrifice, he mocks at it. When he sees his friends lay all on the altar, and cast away every dependence outside of God's promises, he calls them fools. The world, with all its shrewdness, is too shortsighted to see that selfishness defeats itself, and that God's word is better security than all the world can give.

The world says, "Look out for Number one," Well, I believe in looking out for number one ; but who is Number One? The Lord Jesus Christ is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, the first and the last. Rev. 1 : 8, 11, 17. Look out for him ; consecrate all your powers to his service ; and he will look out for you. And if he looks out for you, you are safe ; earth and hell cannot harm you.

The world's rule is "Every one for himself, and the devil take care of the hindmost." God's rule is "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the lay of Christ." Gal. 6 : 2. Very often those who have been most zealous in looking out for themselves, and most successful in "biting and devouring one another," find in the end that they are hindmost in the race, and that they have been spreading a net for their own feet.

"God's commandments are not grievous." I John 5 : 3. To the world they seem unreasonable. To forsake all, and follow Christ, (Matt. 19 : 27-29 ;) not to lay up treasures on the earth (Matt. 6 : 19 ;) not to resist evil (Matt. 5 : 39 ;) such commands seem the essence of foolishness to those who do not believe God's promises. But we know that He promises provision and protection far beyond anything that the arm of flesh can afford. God's promises are at a discount in the world's market. To give according to Luke 3 : 11, relying on Psalms 37 : 3, Phil. 4 : 19 and similar promises, is called fanaticism. To rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him (Psa. 37 : 7,) when everything looks dark, and no earthly help is in sight, is impossible to those whose hearts are set on the things of this world. When their earthly props are

withdrawn, they are tormented with fear and anxiety. How many, when in financial difficulty, for instance, ruin their health with worrying, or even take their own lives in despair.

But we, if we belong to Christ, are not of the world. John 17 : 14-16. His people are a peculiar people (I Peter 2 : 9 ;) and one of their peculiarities is a living faith. James 2 : 14-26. Such a faith will do God's will, trusting him for the results. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6 : 33. Casting all your care on Him, for He careth for you. I Peter 5 : 7.

THE BEAUTY OF THE OLIVE.

"His beauty shall be as the olive tree." Anybody who has ever seen a grove of olives knows that their beauty is not such as strikes the eye. If it were not for the blue sky overhead that rays down glorifying light, there would not be much to look at or talk about. The tree has a gnarled, grotesque trunk which divides into insignificant branches, bearing leaves mean in shape, harsh in texture and with a silvery underside. It gives but a quivering shade and has no massiveness nor sympathy. Ay! But there are olives on the branches. And so the beauty of the humble tree is in what it grows for man's good. After all, it is the outcome in fruitfulness which is the main thing about us. God's meaning in all his gifts of dew and beauty and purity and strength, is that we should be of some use in the world. The olive is crushed into oil, and the oil is used in smoothing and suppling joints of flesh, for nourishing and sustaining the body, as food, for illuminating darkness, as oil in the lamp. And these three things are the three things for which we Christian people have received all our dew and all our beauty and all our strength—that we may give other people light, that we may be the means of conveying to other people nourishment, and that we may move in the world as lubricating, sweetening, soothing influences, and not irritating and provoking and leading to strife and alienation. The question, after all, is : Does anybody gather fruit off us, and would anybody call us "trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified?"—*Alexander McLaren.*

THE only way to regenerate the world is to do the duty which lies nearest us, and not to hunt after grand far-fetched ones for ourselves. If each drop of rain should choose where it should fall, God's showers would not fall as they do now.—*Charles Kingsley.*